

Name:

Date:

StoryCorps Project

Introduction

You will work on a StoryCorps assignment that allows you to explore the skill of storytelling as well as the skill of interviewing. As you have seen (and heard) in previous examples of StoryCorps stories, there are some common principles behind each story: One person describes an impactful moment (s) in his/her life through an interview with a family member, friend, or acquaintance. **You will create a StoryCorps story of your own.** In fact, you may work on **two**--one as the interviewer (the person doing the interview) and one as the interviewee (the person being interviewed).

Summary of Assignment

1. With a partner of our choice (it can be anyone in the 7th grade!), you will work on StoryCorps stories:
 - a. **You will interview your partner** for one of the stories.
 - b. **Your partner will interview you** for the other story.
2. Each story should focus on a certain value, one that has had a big impact in the person's life.
3. After finishing both interviews, you will need to listen to your interview with your partner (the one where you asked the questions) to select what you think is the **best** part of that interview. When you send your interview to your teacher, you will tell Ms. Grieve or Ms. Peale which part of the interview she should listen to.
 - a. For example: "Please listen to the interview from 1:15-2:32."

Requirements

As the INTERVIEWEE (person being interviewed):

- Talk about a meaningful moment in your life
- Speak clearly
- Elaborate--avoid monosyllabic (one syllable) answers and avoid responding with "I don't know."
- Take yourself and your story seriously--this is not a time to be an entertainer or a clown; this is a time to reflect on an important moment in your life.

As the INTERVIEWER (person doing the interview):

- Choose a specific topic/theme to address with your partner.
 - Talk to your partner: Tell him/her the theme you will be focusing on in the interview--do not give any other details other than the theme. The interview should be as authentic as possible (i.e. the story is not planned out ahead of time).
 - Prepare and ask interesting questions about the topic.
 - Stay focused.
 - Ask follow-up questions where appropriate.
 - Listen, and be patient--it may take some time for your partner to open up to you.
 - Take yourself out of the story. The story is the focus, not the interviewer.
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- **Question ideas: These are just samples. Think of your own as well!**
 - Tell me about one of the most important people in your life.
 - Tell me about the person who has had the greatest influence on your life. What lessons did he/she teach you?
 - Tell me about a time when you were brave.
 - Tell me about a time when you were disappointed.
 - Who has been the kindest to you and why?
 - Tell me about a time when you have been kind to someone else?
 - What is an important lesson you've learned in life?
 - Can you share your earliest childhood memory?
 - What have you accomplished that makes you proudest? Why?
 - Tell me how you would like people to remember you.
 - Would you be willing to share a happy or sad memory with me?
 - What do you admire most in a grown up at home or at school?

Due Dates:

Thursday, December 1 (B, E periods): Choose your partner; complete the pre-interview reflection

Monday, December 5:

A period: Choose partner; complete the pre-interview reflection

B, E periods:

- Choose partner; complete the pre-interview reflection:
- Write out the final questions for your StoryCorps project

Tuesday, December 6: (C period):

- Choose your partner; complete the pre-interview reflection
- Write out the final questions for your StoryCorps project

Monday, December 12: (All periods) StoryCorp project is due.